THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 11th May 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Abolition of the " Panchakarma ward " in the College of Indigenous Medicine.

* 608 [a] *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state why the " Panchakarma ward " attached to the Government College of Indigenous Medicine, Madras, has been recently abolished?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" The Panchakarma ward in the Hospital of Indigenous Medicine, Madras, has not been abolished as presumed by the Member, but the name of the ward has been changed into Ayurveda Ward II."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR:—" What is the form of treatment that has been given in the Panchakarma ward, which I have said that Government have abolished? What is the form of treatment that is being given in Ayurveda Ward II which the Hon. Minister has stated as the new name for the Panchakarma ward? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member probably wants to know whether the treatment has changed with the change of name of the ward."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" The term ' Panchakarma ' is a comprehensive one. In this ward the Malabar special method of oil massage treatment also is given. This oil massage treatment has been found not satisfactory or up to expectations as a result of experience. However, four beds have been retained for experimental purposes."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR:—" Is it not a fact that there were thirty beds to start with in the Panchakarma ward and the ward was yielding about 80 to 85 per cent success? It has now been attenuated to a bed strength of three or four. Even though the name has changed, I want to know whether the treatment also has been changed."

MR. SPEAKER:—" This is exactly what Mr. T. C. Narayanan Nambiar has asked. The Hon. Minister replied that only the name has been changed."

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[a] Postponed from the list of questions for 8th May 1954.

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SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the original bed strength of this Panchakarma ward was 30 and that it was yielding 80 to 85 per cent success. If that is so, what is the reason for reducing its strength to a paltry number of four, notwithstanding its previous strength and notwithstanding its success? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" According to the report of the Honorary Director of Indigenous Medicine, Dr. Guruswami Mudaliar, this treatment has not been successful to the extent they expected it. Therefore for experimental purposes they have retained four beds, for the oil massage treatment. Panchakarma treatment has a wider scope."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Will the Hon. Minister please tell us what constitutes this Panchakarma treatment? He has mentioned only one of them."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Shall I read for the information of the hon. Member a passage from the Chopra Committee Report? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" That may take a long time. I would suggest to the Hon. Minister to roneo that passage and circulate it to hon. Members."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" It will not take more than a few seconds to read it, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" If it will take only a few seconds, I have no objection."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Panchakarma treatment includes the five methods of clearing up treatment by purging, by giving emetics, by promoting nasal secretions and by various forms of enemata."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" In spite of the elaborate explanation given by the Hon. Minister I am at a loss to know the exact meaning of the phrase " Panchakarma treatment ". Has it anything to do with the five kinds of sins which we committed in our previous births? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It includes the five methods of clearing up treatment mentioned by me."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that this system of oil massage is popular even in Western countries and that system has been found to be very efficient? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That massage is different from this massage, Sir."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" The Hon. Minister said that for experimental purposes they have retained a bed strength of four, because they have found that this treatment has not come up to their expectations. Is it not a fact that twenty-five years ago

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Government tried this experiment and it was found then that this was an effective treatment? How can the Government now say that this system has not been successful? ''

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' The Honorary Director of Indigenous Medicine has reported so, viz., that this treatment has not been successful to the expected extent.''

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—'' This Panchakarma treatment which is a peculiar treatment was mainly intended for diseases which cannot be cured by allopathy. The treatment includes the five methods of treatment, viz. പിഴിച്ചിൽ, ധാര, വസ്തി, നസ്യം, നവരക്കിഴി I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether these treatments were given in the Panchakarma ward and now abolished. A specific answer has not been given to my question. Instead the Hon. Minister said that the new name of Ayurveda ward II had been given to the Panchakarma ward. He also said that because the experiment has not proved successful—and that was what the Honorary Director of Indigenous Medicine told them—Government have decided to retain only a bed strength of four for experimental purposes. In this connexion, may I ask the Hon. Minister for Health whether it is not a fact that in 1952 a circular was issued by the Honorary Director of Indigenous Medicine to the Principal of the College to report the result of this Panchakarma treatment and in the month of January 1953 it was stated by the Director of Indigenous Medicine that this experiment was worth taking up and being followed? Is it not a fact that without any further enquiry or report from experts in the field, the Panchakarma ward was abolished by Government in February 1953? If the answer is in the affirmative, I want to know the reason for abolition of the ward without proper enquiry by experts.''

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' It does not stand to reason that when the concerned departmental head says that a particular treatment has not come up to expectations, Government should continue the treatment. On the report of the Honorary Director of Indigenous Medicine, we have decided to retain only a bed strength of four for experimental purposes.''

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—'' After all is said and done about this matter, has this Panchakarma treatment anything to do with panchatantram? '' 8-10 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER :—'' What has that to do with this question? ''

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—'' The Hon. Minister said that the results did not come up to expectations. Was it due to mismanagement or misapplication of the system or due to any inherent defect in the system itself? ''

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' It cannot be due to any mismanagement. People who are experienced in that system of treatment are giving the treatment.''

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SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" Is it not a fact that the leader Sri Jai Prakash Narain, John Barry Moore, Hollywood star, and Sri G. L. Nanda, Minister for Planning in the Central Government, got treated under the Panchakarma system and cured? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is some information which I have got in my possession."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the widespread belief that the following five acts constitute the Panchakarma treatment administered by the Government :—

Closing down of the pharmacy—No. 1.

Spiriting away the herbarium—No. 2.

Appointment of a Director, honorary though he be, who is very uncontaminated by Indian Medicine—No. 3.

Teaching of Ayurveda in English—No. 4.

Closing down of the Panchakarma ward—No. 5? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The pharmacy has not been closed; only the matter is under consideration. A new medicinal farm has been opened at a short distance from the College of Indigenous Medicine. What are the other karmas that the hon. Member mentioned? "

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" There are so many questions to be taken up to-day, Sir."

SRI N. RAMAKRISHNA AYYAR :—" What is the cost per bed per day for a patient treated under the Panchakarma system? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It varies from case to case."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Has not this Panchakarma treatment enjoyed from time immemorial reputation as the most efficacious form of treatment prescribed in Ayurveda? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" We must make use of the experience gained in the hospitals and not simply stick to old methods."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Is it a fact that the Dean of this hospital has no faith in Ayurveda and, if so, may I request the Hon. Minister to appoint as Dean a person who has at least got faith in Ayurveda for the benefit of the hospital? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Honorary Director who is in charge of this institution is a person who has full faith in Ayurveda and is fully sympathetic towards this system of treatment. We wanted to strengthen the Pathology Section and that was one of the reasons for appointing a retired Professor of Pathology as Dean."

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• SRI T. ANANTHA PAI :—" How many patients were treated ever since this ward was opened? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I cannot give the figure off-hand."

SRI C. RAJAM RAMASAMI :—" As Panchakarma treatment is a very violent treatment involving purging and all that, will the Hon. Minister consider the transfer of this treatment centre to Malabar itself, so that the people of Malabar may get benefit out of it? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Panchakarma treatment is part of the Ayurvedic treatment and so it should remain."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" Is there any comprehensive treatise or literature on this subject? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There must be a lot of literature, on this subject."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I pass on to the next question."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, we want to have a half-hour debate on the subject-matter of the previous question."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Having allowed thirteen minutes for the question, I cannot allow a half-hour debate."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" Sir, anyhow we are going to have a debate on Homoeopathy for one hour. Since this is an allied subject, Members may be allowed to speak on this also in that debate."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is absolutely no connection between Homoeopathy and Panchakarma treatment."

Grant of permits and licences to evacuees to do business in the City of Madras.

* 644 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many evacuees are provided with permits and licences to do business in the City of Madras; and

(*b*) whether they are exempted from the payment of sales tax?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) One hundred and ninety-three displaced persons from Pakistan have been granted licences to do business in the City of Madras. No permits have been issued to displaced persons in the Madras City.

" (*b*) Yes. Exemption in respect of sales of foodgrains by these refugees is being granted from year to year."